

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 17981 301632Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 SSM-05 SAA-01 IO-14 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 SP-02 SS-15 /070 W
-----020617 301635Z /46

O 301622Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2045

AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USICA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CAIRO 17981

DEPT FOR S/PRS AND PA, PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL
USICA FOR PGM/PP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L.)

SUBJECT: AMB. ATHERTON'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT ALEXANDRIA

FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF AMB. ATHERTON' PRESS
CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH PRES. SADAT AND HIS
ADVISORS:

ATHERTON: I WANT TO EXPRESS MY VERY DEEP APPRECIATION TO
PRESIDENT SADAT FOR RECEIVING ME AND FOR GIVING ME SO MUCH
OF HIS TIME TODAY. I TOOK THIS OCCASION TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT
SADAT ON THE TALKS THAT I HAVE HAD SO FAR DURING THIS TRIP TO
THE AREA, TO REVIEW FOR HIM THE AMERICAN ASSESSMENT OF WHERE
THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS NOW STANDS, AND TO HEAR FROM
PRESIDENT SADAT HIS ASSESSMENTS. I ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION TO
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DESCRIBE FOR HIM HOW WE WOULD SEE THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS
IN THE FUTURE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU PUT YOUR PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE MEETING
IN SINAI TO PRESIDENT SADAT OFFICIALLY?

ANSWER: THIS IS A SUBJECT THAT WAS UNDER DISCUSSION IN OUR
PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL CONVERSATIONS, AND I REALLY DON'T

BELIEVE THAT I CAN SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THOSE DISCUSSIONS OTHER THAN AS I INDICATED YESTERDAY THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS I HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING.

QUESTION: ARE YOU ANY NEARER NOW TO THE SINAI MEETING?

ANSWER: AS I SAID, THIS IS A SUBJECT OF OUR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS AND I DON'T REALLY THINK I HAVE ANYTHING ANY FURTHER TO ADD.

QUESTION: AS A RESULT OF YOUR CONSULTATIONS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, DOES HE RECOMMEND VANCE COMING TO THE AREA, OR NOT?

ANSWER: MR. VANCE HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT A TRIP TO THE AREA, BUT WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THIS YET; AND I WILL OF COURSE BE REPORTING ON THIS CONVERSATION AS WELL AS MY OTHER CONVERSATIONS TO HIM AND THE FINAL DECISION IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE MADE IN WASHINGTON AND NOT HERE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. (END OF PRESS CONFERENCE WITH AMB. ATHERTON.) EILTS

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Message Attributes

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